

Provided by the Democratic Staff of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Honorable Bob Filner, Chairman

Summary of H.R. 797, as amended
Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act

Section 1 – Enhanced Compensation Benefits for Veterans in Certain Cases of Impairment of Vision Involving Both Eyes

- Allows veterans who receive veteran's disability compensation for impairment of vision in one eye to be eligible to receive additional disability compensation for impairment of vision in the eye that is not service-connected, where the impairment in each eye is to a visual acuity of 20/200 or less or of a peripheral field loss of 20 degrees or less (the definition of "legal blindness" adopted by all 50 states and the Social Security Administration.)

Section 2 – Use of National Directory for New Hires for Income Verification Purposes for Certain Veterans Benefits

- Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to match and compare VA needs-based pension benefits data, parents' dependency and indemnity compensation data, health-care services data, and unemployability compensation data with the National Directory of New Hires maintained by DHHS, for the purpose of determining eligibility for such benefits and services (as recommended by GAO study GAO-06-309).
- Extends the authority of the VA Secretary to obtain information from the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the purposes of determining eligibility for VA benefits and programs to September 20, 2012.
- Extends authorization of the veterans work study program until 2012.
- Allows for a bronze "V" marker in lieu of a government provided headstone or marker for burials in a private cemetery.